

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested. Applicants hereby elect Group I, directed to Claims 1-4, for further prosecution in the present application.

Claims 3 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being vague and indefinite; Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Adams et al.; Claim 5 has been further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by WO 01/51192; Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Nippon KKK; and Claim 4 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Nippon KKK in view of Novak et al. Claim 5 has been canceled, without prejudice, while new Claim 6 has been added, and thus, Claims 1-4 and 6 remain active.

Considering first then the Examiner's rejection of Claims 3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, as being vague and indefinite, it is to be noted that appropriate amendments have been made to Claim 3 for compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112 and to provide proper antecedent basis for all terminology.

Considering next then the rejection of Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Adams and the rejection of Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by WO 01/51192, it is to be noted that Claim 5 has been canceled, without prejudice.

Next considering then the rejection of Claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Nippon KKK (hereinafter "Nippon"), it is to be noted that in accordance with the present invention as claimed in Claim 1, the holder includes first and second holes for allowing passage of electrode pins of the squib, one of the first and second holes being provided for each of the electrode pins. This significantly differs from the teachings of Nippon which teaches a holder 23, 24, but teaches locating the two electrode pins within a single hole as discussed at column 5, lines 9-11 and lines 34-44. To the contrary, in the

present invention, two electrode pins are inserted into two respective holes as mentioned above, the importance of which is discussed at page 16, lines 13-19, page 3, lines 11-25 and page 7, lines 1-10. It is to be additionally noted that in accordance with the present invention, when degradation of the squib resin occurs at a high temperature, the shear area of the resin is small and thereby an advantageous effect of increasing retention strength of the electrode pins is obtained. However, such advantage is not present in Nippon and it would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Nippon to meet Applicants' claimed invention. In this regard, there is no motivation or teaching of such a modification. In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that Claim 1 as now amended patentably defines over Nippon as well as the remaining references of record.

Considering next then the rejection of Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Nippon in view of Novak et al., it is to be noted that Novak et al. fails to rectify the deficiencies noted herein above with regard to Nippon and none of the remaining references are obviously combinable with Nippon to meet Applicants' claimed invention.

Applicants further note that while Amano has been cited by the Examiner, such includes a holder 55 made of resin and is the English language equivalent of Nippon. Because of this resin, against an inner pressure, retention of the inserting member that inserts the electrode pins 57, 58 is relatively weak. In addition, the inserting member itself is not integrally formed with the holder, so that in the situation where the holder is damaged, the inserting member cannot be retained. In other words, when the strength of the resin is decreased because of exposure to high temperatures, the inserting member and the holder made of resin including the inserting member are damaged. Therefore, there is a high possibility that the electrode pins could fly off to the exterior. To the contrary, in the present invention, since the holes into which the electrode pins are inserted are provided directly in the holder, even if the strength of the squib resin is decreased because of exposure to high

temperatures, there is an advantageous effect that discharge or flying-off of the electrode pins due to shearing can be prevented. Moreover, when the holder is made of metal, this advantageous effect is enhanced.

It is to be further noted that Claim 6 has been added to further structurally and functionally define the present invention. Insofar as a review of the prior art of record fails to indicate a teaching or disclosure of the limitations of Claim 6 and based upon the above-noted arguments in support of Claim 1, it is submitted that each of Claims 2-4 and 6 also merit indication of allowability with the same being hereby earnestly solicited.

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